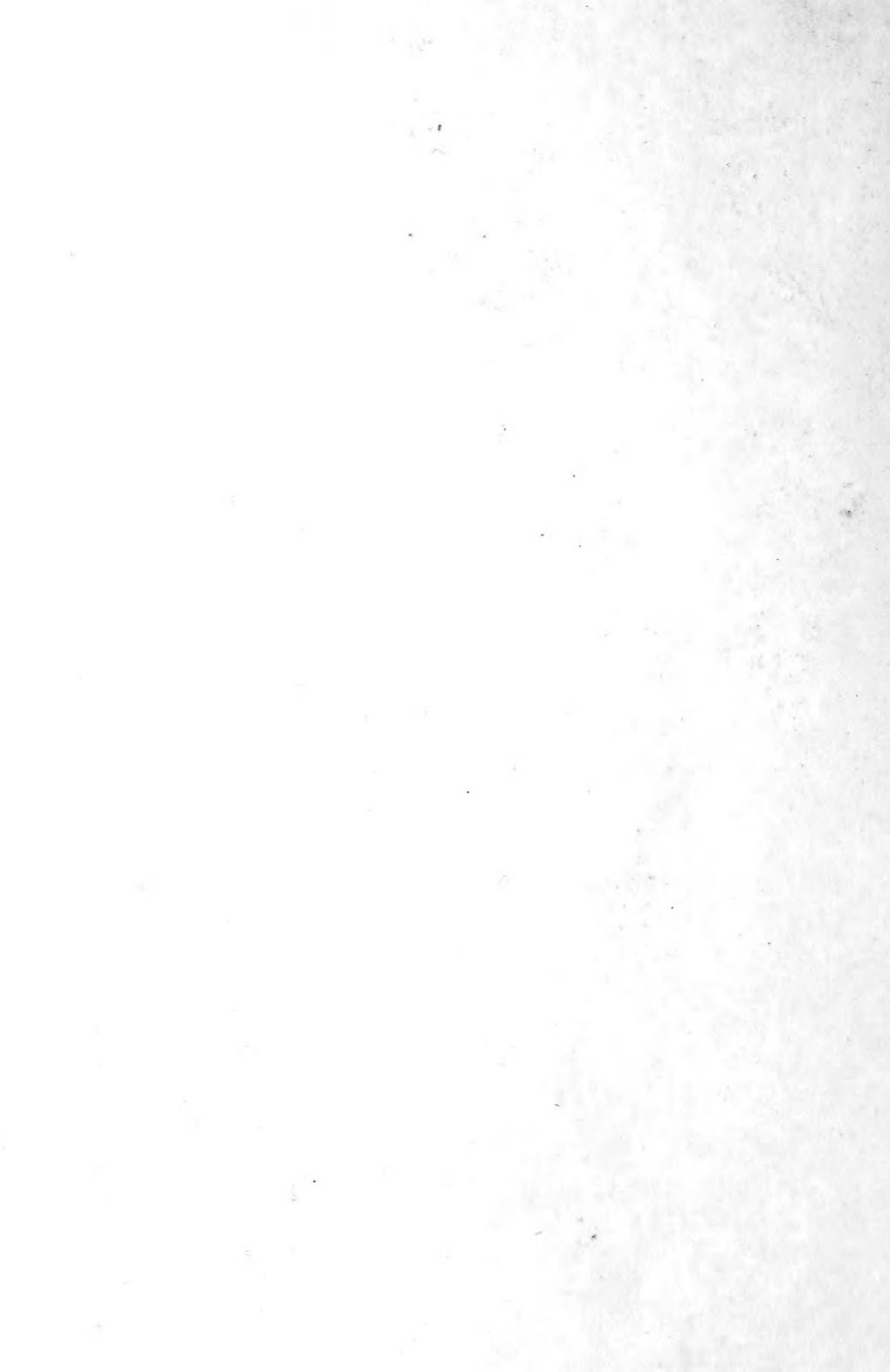


# **Historic, Archive Document**

**Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.**



6247

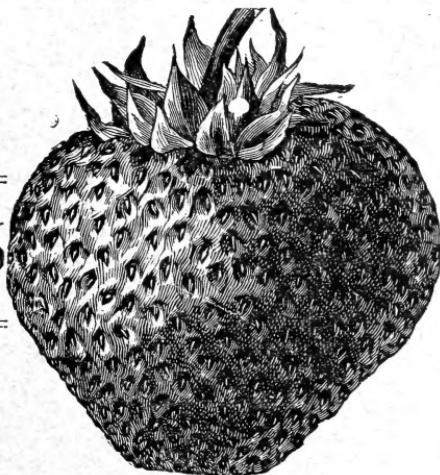
Established 1894

*Annual Catalogue  
and Price List of*

# *Strawberry Plants*

1906

1906



**D. McNallie  
Plant and Fruit Co.  
Sarcoxie, Mo.**

**O**UR plants are grown in soil naturally adapted for raising plants and berries, with all the ingredients necessary to mature them perfectly without any assistance by artificial means. We guarantee all plants True to Name; and if given the same soil, same conditions, same culture, to yield as much and as fine a fruit as any grown, East or West, North or South, imbedded or pedigree.

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
SEP 13 1920  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## D. McNallie

Died at his home near Sarcoxie, on Sunday, July 30, 1905, Dennis McNallie, aged 57 years, 9 months and 13 days.

This tribute of respect, paid by his sons, concerns only his activity in the work of horticulture. In 1894, after a life spent principally in mercantile pursuits, he became engaged in the growing of small fruits and plants. He was an interested and thorough student of his business, and optimistic as to its future. Especially was he an extensive grower of strawberries, and his plant trade extended to nearly every state in the Union. It has been said that he probably did more to promote the culture, and improve the varieties of strawberries than any one man in this section of the country.

He was a man of originality and firm in his convictions, but they were generally formed after intelligent study and reasoning. He often said, "You must love the culture of fruit and take a pride in it, in my opinion, to succeed." He loved his work.

To those succeeding him in the management of the business, he has left an example in probity, that is worthy of emulation; and if followed by them, will be more valuable in their life work than any possessions that might have been left of a material nature.

*J. F. McNallie*

*Orion McNallie*

*C. McNallie*

## *Announcement*

The D. McNallie Plant and Fruit Company was organized in September, 1905, to conduct the plant and fruit business established and operated by D. McNallie for the past twelve years. The active members of the company are two sons and a nephew; and it will be their aim and endeavor to continue the business along the same high plane established by the founder. The sons have been associated with the business since its establishment, and a large part of the detail work has always been looked after by them; the nephew, C. McNallie, has been engaged in the raising and shipping of small fruit for the last ten years. We are young men, but we might say we have grown up in the plant and small fruit business. Our experience has been gained by active work in all lines of the industry, and we are enthusiastic and confident in regard to the future of raising fruit, as a profitable and congenial occupation. And we do not hesitate to advise any one, young or old, if so inclined, to begin the growing of fruit. The opportunity is great, the field is broad, and the demand is becoming greater every year. It was only a few years ago that strawberries, for instance, were considered a luxury; today, in every home, where they can be secured, they are deemed almost a necessity in their season. There are many markets not yet reached, but the improved methods of transportation and refrigeration, will soon make these accessible. Good fruit, properly handled and marketed, we believe, will always find a profitable sale; and in the growing of it you will not meet the avaricious competition that seems to be encountered in so many other lines of work. One who loves and follows the raising of fruit, will get closer to nature, himself and his fellow man.

We take this opportunity of thanking the many customers of the past for their liberal patronage, and the many kind words of encouragement received from them. It will be our constant study in the future, as it has been in the past, to try and give

perfect satisfaction to the old, as well as new customers who entrust their orders to us, as our success, we feel confident, depends wholly on the satisfaction we may be able to give our patrons.

While we cannot come before you with the claim that we are specialists in the strawberry plant business, but will leave it to your judgment whether our other occupation of raising and shipping berries is any disadvantage, or if it does not better qualify us for the business of raising and selling plants. We not only raise plants for sale, but also have a large acreage of plants at work in the field, under the same conditions that you will be using them, and we believe, it places us in a better position to watch the working qualities of a strawberry plant than any person who merely raises plants for sale, under a high state of fertilization. While they may be perfectly honest in their descriptions and advice under those conditions, will it represent the conditions of the average berry grower in this section and others, where we have not yet been educated up to the necessity of using fertilizers freely?

**Location**—We are located at Sarcoxie, Mo., in the Ozarks, near the southwest corner of the state, where the natural advantages of soil are as perfect, if not the most perfect, for growing strawberry plants and berries of any any place in the United States. About 1000 acres of berries are harvested here annually, being shipped in refrigerator cars principally, to the large markets of the North and West. Over 1,250 cars, or about 750,000 24-quart crates, of strawberries alone, have been shipped from Sarcoxie in the last ten years. Our fields are situated one and two miles south of Sarcoxie on Frisco Railroad; Wells Fargo Express.

**Guarantee**—We guarantee our plants true to name, and will replace them free of charge if they prove not to be so; well rooted and from new beds that have never fruited. While we do not claim to raise better plants than any one else on earth, we do claim that we raise them better than some, and as good as the others.

**Filling Orders**—We commence filling orders as early as

we can dig plants in the spring, about March 1st; though we frequently have warm spells during the winter that we can take up plants if needed. We will not fill any orders after May 10th, as we do not think the plants are then in condition to give satisfaction. A great deal of their vitality has been used to form foliage and fruit.

**When to Order**—Order early by all means, while the plants are in a dormant condition before they commence to grow in the spring; they will ship better, stand more neglect and rough usage, and will start off better when set out. Allow time enough before you need the plants, so that if we are crowded and you should have to wait a day or two, it will not inconvenience you. The best plan is to order a week or two ahead, and state the date you wish them shipped. Another advantage in ordering early, is that our stock is complete and you are sure of getting all your order filled.

**Substituting**—We will not substitute any variety for those ordered, without permission. Would advise you to permit such substituting if it can be done with plants equally as good for the purpose wanted, as it might save time if we should be out of the kinds ordered, especially late in the season when a day or two is very important.

**Preparing Plants**—All plants are dug fresh when ordered, and each plant is cleaned separate. We not only remove all runners and dead leaves, but take off nearly all the foliage. We find this makes the plant lighter to ship, much less liable to heat, and if the conditions are not very favorable, the foliage dies after the plants are set out before they start to grow. After plants are cleaned they are carefully counted and tied in bunches of 25, each bunch plainly labeled; unless the order is for 3,000, or more, of any one variety, when they are packed separate in plant crates, and each crate plainly branded with the name of the variety.

**Packing and Guarantee**—We take extra care in packing our plants, and guarantee all express or mail order shipments to reach their destination in good order. If they are lost on account of delays or accidents, we will replace them free of

charge, if notified promptly. We pack in boxes as light as possible, considering the way they are handled in shipment, and use damp moss, not wet. Nearly every season we order some of the new varieties from different sections of the country for trial. And from two out of every three lots we generally have to throw away more or less plants, on account of improper cleaning, poor packing, too wet moss, or being dug when ground is wet. A grower may raise good plants, but if they are not cleaned and packed properly, you will not get good results from them.

**Great Advantage**—While there are three active members of this company, there are three others of the McNallie family, who have stock in the company, and whose services are devoted exclusively to the company during the plant season. We know of no business that requires the care of the plant business to keep it straight. The work generally has to be done in a rush, and the plant dealer is at the mercy of the elements and the man wanting the plants. So our great advantage in filling orders is on account of each department of the work—from the digging of the plants, through the store room, cleaning rooms, tieing rooms and packing room's—are under the careful supervision of some one of our own company who understands the business; and are anxious that every customer be well pleased.

**Our Stock**—We have a nice large stock of plants for sale this season, and we solicit large as well as small orders. Can furnish them by the dozen or the half million, all from our own fields. We will sell no plants except those grown under our own supervision. We know our own fields are pure, but do not know whether others are or not.

**Terms**—One-third cash with order, balance before plants are shipped. We will ship by express C. O. D., if one-third of the amount accompanies the order, purchaser to pay return charges on the money.

**Remittance**—May be made by St. Louis, Chicago, or New York draft, postoffice or express order, or where none of these can be had, by registered letter.

**Reference**—First National Bank, State Bank, Postmaster, express agent or any business house at Sarcoxie, Mo.

## Description of Varieties

**Aroma (S)**—For several years this berry has been growing rapidly in favor, and for the last three or four years has been the leading late variety in this section of the country. It has largely supplanted the well-known Gandy as it seems to be suited to a greater variety of soils, and probably one-half to three-fourths of the acreage planted in southwest Missouri this season will be of the Aroma. While it commences ripening a little earlier than Gandy, it generally lasts as long, is much more productive, and there is no berry that outsells it on the market. A good plant maker, and free from rust. Fruit very large, roundish in shape, rarely misshapen and deep glossy red in color. If you have not tried this variety, do so, for we are satisfied you will be pleased with it.

**Bubach (P)**—A well-known variety, noted for its large size and productiveness. Mid-season in ripening, but a poor plant maker, which is probably the main reason of its success in maturing large fruit. It is a variety that generally exceeds its promises at blooming time, for all of its fruit is of a marketable quality. Especially recommended for home use or near market.

**Bismark (S)**—When this berry was introduced it was expected that it would supersede the Bubach. It is as productive as that variety, a better plant maker, and its fruit is firmer, but it will not produce as many extremely large berries as Bubach, and some object to their lighter color. It is medium in season, and a good pollenizer.

**Barton's Eclipse (P)**—This is a variety that probably would be more of a favorite among growers, if its foliage was not subject to rust some years. We have fruited it several years and even when it rusts, we can generally depend on it yielding a large quantity of fine berries. Medium to late, fruit somewhat of the Haverland shape, but darker in color.

**Benoy (S)**—A very large, fairly productive berry, poor plant maker; about same season as Bubach; firm for so large a berry.

**Bobolink (S)**—This variety is highly spoken of in some sections. Claimed to be the earliest of them all. We have had it for two years, but can not tell much about it, as the late frosts have always destroyed most of the blooms.

**Brandywine** (S)—A berry that differs from most varieties, in having a broad heart-shape, bright yellow seeds, and a very large calyx. A good plant maker, productive, firm, and from medium to late in season. With us some seasons the calyx turns brown and injures the appearance of the fruit. This variety does well in some sections, and we note that in some parts of California, it is their most profitable berry.

**Ben Davis** (S)—We like this berry very well, though we did not have many plants left at fruiting time last year. It is a good plant maker, healthy foliage; quite productive of large berries, round regular shape, firm and dark red. Mid-season.

**Clyde** (S)—It has many good features and as few defects as any variety grown, but those defects, most seasons, are its undoing. If the season and soil are just right it is fine. The roots and crowns of the plant are above the average in size, and it is a fair plant maker, but most years it does not produce foliage sufficient to protect and properly nourish its fruit at ripening time. Too many of its berries will rot on the underside before they ripen enough for picking. It is medium early, very productive, fruit large to very large. It is strong in pollen and makes a good early pollenizer for mid-season pistillates.

**Crescent** (P)—One of the very oldest varieties grown at the present time. While it is discarded in most sections, it is largely grown in other places yet on account of its season and productiveness. It is about the earliest pistillate variety, but after the first picking, the fruit runs down in size quickly, and becomes soft. Not profitable as a commercial berry.

**Downing's Bride** (P)—A promising variety, not very well known as yet, and named, so we are informed, by the originator, after a Mr. Downing and his bride who visited his strawberry beds at fruiting time. We have fruited this variety several years, and consider that it was appropriately named. The appearance of its fruit is as handsome as any bride could surely wish to be. It is very large, firm and productive; and holds up well in size to the very last picking. In color, it is of a deeper, glossier red than the almost ideal Ridgeway. Mid-season; and a fair plant maker, which sends out very long runners, before another plant is formed, therefore does not set its plant close together. It makes a thrifty, upright foliage, though the plant does not make many or very long roots, and this feature might make against its productiveness

in a very dry season. We believe it is well worthy of trial by all strawberry growers, as it is very highly spoken of in other sections of the country.

**Dayton** (S)—This variety resembles the Haverland in size and shape of fruit, but is darker colored. It is a very early medium variety, productive, but not firm enough for long shipments. Believe you would like it as a garden berry or for home market.

**Dornan** (S)—This is rather a new variety, and was introduced by Flansburgh & Peirson as Uncle Jim. It is claimed that on account of its superior qualities its name was changed to Dornan by the Michigan Horticultural Society. We have had this variety two years, but last year was the first season we fruited it. We have been impressed with the plant growth of this variety; they are very thrifty, large crowns, large roots; the foliage is larger and taller than any variety we grow. Last fruiting season it came up to our expectations, or a little better. It was very productive of very large berries, that held up in size as well as the Bubach. It was not extra firm last season, and seemed to be slow in ripening its fruit all over. We believe it is a valuable variety, and worthy of trial. Late in season.

**Excelsior** (S)—An early berry, planted extensively, especially in some of the southern sections. It commences to ripen about the same time as the Michel, but after two or three days will ripen much faster than that variety; on that account it produces more extremely early berries than Michel's Early. Foliage tall and dark green, some rust; fruit almost round and very dark red; firm and a much better shipper than Michel. It is a good plant maker and if rows are allowed to become too thick, the last pickings will be small. A few object to it on account of its tart flavor, but we believe you will make no mistake in planting it for an early berry. It is productive, a nice looking berry, a good shipper and sure plant maker.

**Enhance** (S)—Medium to late, a long season, a good pollinator, first berries irregular in shape, but become regular after a few pickings; from medium to large in size, a good shipper, and good plant maker.

**Ernie** (S)—Plants are medium in size, and this last season it did not come up to the average as a plant maker. Claimed to be earlier than Crescent, and to hold out longer in fruiting. Would probably make a good fertilizer for early pistil-

lates. Berries are uniform in size and shape, dark red and firm; productive.

**Gandy** (S)—Before the Aroma became so well-known, the Gandy was the favorite late berry among most strawberry growers. It is a good plant maker, very large, firm, and a good shipper, either in refrigerator cars or by express. It is not adapted to as many kinds of soil as the Aroma, and some seasons is not so sure a cropper as that variety. Because of its flavor is much desired for a canning or preserving berry.

**Gardner** (S)—Large stocky plants; favors the Clyde in general appearance, except that it makes much larger, robust foliage, sufficient to give perfect protection from the sun to the berries. It is very productive; it will not have as many ripe berries on at one time as the Clyde, but lasts longer, and will produce as much fruit, one season with another, as the Clyde. The Clyde will produce some larger berries than the Gardner, and some smaller. The Gardner is much more uniform in shape and size and will average fully as large during the season. We use it extensively to pollenate Haverland. Mid-season.

**Glen Mary** (S)—Very weak in pollen; not fit to pollenate pistillates. It is fairly productive of nice large berries, and holds up well during the whole season. We like this berry better each year. Mid-season; has a robust, vigorous plant; but hardly up to the average as a plant maker.

**Greenville** (P)—This is an old standard variety, well-known all over the country; it is very productive. We have never known it to fail in making a large yield of berries; like the Bubach it is classed as soft, but they ship well in refrigerator cars; a medium plant maker of fine healthy plants.

**Haverland** (P)—A standard variety more universally praised all over the country than any other. It has more good points and fewer faults than any berry we ever grew. It makes a large stocky plant and sets just enough plants to make a perfect fruiting row. Medium in season, very productive, large to very large, and holds up well in size to the last picking. It is long in shape, gradually tapering to the end; and light scarlet in color. While it may not be as firm as some varieties, it is firm enough for home or nearby markets, and if not allowed to get too ripe before picking, will carry as long a distance as any variety. We have known this variety, shipped in refrigerator cars, to arrive in good condi-

tion, and bring the top price a week after they were picked. This berry was D. McNallie's first choice of anything in the strawberry kingdom. We quote from one of his descriptions: "This berry with me, not one year, but every year that I have

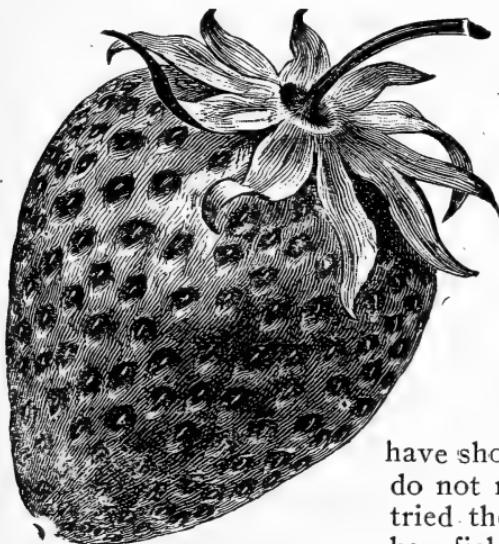
fruited it, has without doubt been the most productive berry that I have had on my place; and in first quality of merchantable berries, no other has been in sight of it. I have had growers say to me if they could raise such Haverlands as I did they would never raise anything else; that my land just suited it. I have grown them on all kinds of land.

I never have shown them any favors; they do not need it; but I never have tried them in a weed patch or a hay field, their dignity might rebel against such treatment. If you have never tried the Haver-

land, do so, for I feel confident you will be pleased with it."

**Hero (S)**—This is one of the newer varieties that have come to stay. We have fruited it for several years and like it better every year as a fruiter and pollener. The plant has many of the characteristics of the Haverland; a large rooted, stocky plant, and makes just enough for a good fruiting row. Medium in ripening, berry dark red, from large to very large in size, and does not run down in size as soon as so many varieties.

**Hoffman (S)**—This is nearly, if not quite, as early as Michel; some seasons it is more productive and others no more productive than the Michel; one great advantage it has, it does not make much more than half the plants the Michel does, so it matures much larger and nicer fruit. It is generally quoted on the market from fifty cents to one dollar a crate more than the Michel, as it is larger, a better shipper and better looking berry.



**Haverland.**

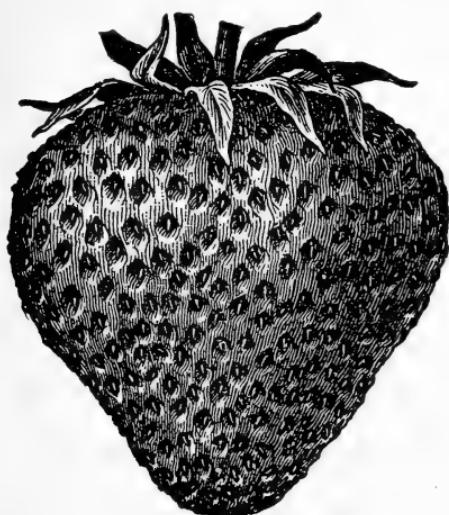
**Jerry Rusk (S)**—When the seasons are favorable this is a grand berry, but it does not like dry weather at fruiting time, as it sets so much fruit it cannot mature it in a dry time.

**Johnson's Early (S)**—Here is an early variety, that has good parentage, being a cross of the Crescent and Hoffman. It is extremely early, ripening about the same time as Excelsior. It resembles the Hoffman in color of foliage and of fruit. It is a very prolific plant maker, and we doubt if there is any variety that will equal it in this respect. It is large for so early a berry, and very productive. We have fruited it for five years and have been well pleased with it, though last year it did not come up to our expectations. After the first pickings the fruit became knotty on the ends, but we attribute this to the severe frosts at blooming time, and the extreme wet weather during picking time. We do not condemn it for its actions this past season, for many other varieties did not come up to their average on account of the reasons just named. If you want an early variety and have not tried the Johnson, try it. Keep plants thin.

**Klondike (S)**—This is a variety that from reports and from our own observations, we believe is a decided improvement over the well-known Lady Thompson. And it was not secured by "pedigreeing," but by breeding for a new variety, that would not have the defects of the Lady Thompson. The Lady Thompson has been well proven, and during dry seasons has been a money maker, and we do not intend to abandon it yet. But it has too light a color, and during very wet seasons gets soft; we have found the Klondike not to have these bad qualities. In growth of plant it resembles the Lady Thompson very much, though the foliage is much darker in color. The two seasons we have fruited it, it has been more productive than Lady Thompson, one to two days later in ripening, the berries are some larger and hold up well in size. It is darker colored and firmer; in fact it is reported to carry extra well as a shipper. Probably no berry of recent introduction came so quickly to the front among Southern growers, as a market variety. We believe it will be a universal favorite when thoroughly tried.

**Kansas (P)**—A good plant maker, healthy foliage. Is highly recommended as being productive, from medium to large in size, from medium to late in ripening.

**Lady Thompson (S)**—This berry has been planted extensively in the south for several years, and has become quite popular in this locality. It is a good plant maker, with a very rank foliage that stands almost upright, making it easily distinguished from other varieties.



**Lady Thompson.**

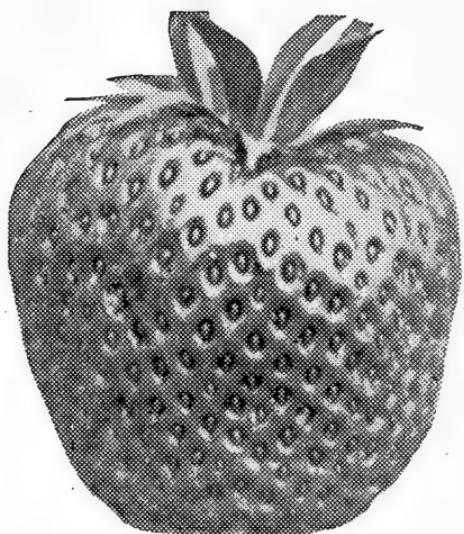
It is second early in season, ripening after Excelsior. It is fairly productive, and lasts a long season. While not an extremely large berry, it is large enough for any fancy trade, and holds up in size until every berry is gone. There might be some objections to the light color of its fruit, and the last two seasons, on account of the ex-

treme rainy weather, there have been some complaints about it not carrying well on long distance shipments. It seems to thrive and do best during a dry fruiting season, apparently the drier it is the better it seems to do.

**Lester Lovett (S)**—We have fruited this variety for three or four years and believe it to be the same as Gandy. We have tried the two varieties side by side, and can see no distinct difference in plant or fruit.

**Marie (P)**—This is a seedling of the Crescent crossed with the Cumberland. It takes after the Crescent in being a prolific plant maker, and producing lots of fruit. The berries are round, fairly firm, and of good color. It is not an extra large berry, but the fruit will probably run more uniform in shape and size than any variety grown.

**Mele (P)**—This is an improvement on Crescent all around, and about the same season in ripening. It is a prolific plant maker, and while it can not be classed with the large berries, it is fully as large, if not larger than the Crescent, and holds up much better to the last picking. Some class it as soft, but it does not need to be a firm berry to replace the Crescent, and it is fully as firm. Would like all who are growing Crescent to try it, as we think you will like it much better.



**Mary.**

**Mary** (P)—This is an extremely large berry, and very little known. It is a poor plant maker; makes less plants than Bubach, and for this reason probably has not been advertised much by plant dealers. We have fruited it several years and out of over a hundred varieties, we can say it produces the largest berries we have ever seen. It is fairly productive, medium to late, and very firm for so large a berry. In color it is very dark, almost black when fully ripe. It should be tried at least by those who cater to a fancy trade.

**Michel** (S)—Our oldest very early variety. It is being discarded by a great many on account of its size and shipping qualities, while some sections still use it nearly exclusively, like a great many other varieties it makes too many plants, and we allow them to become too thick for best results.

**Monitor** (S)—Resembles the Captain Jack in growth of plant and shape of fruit. It is a medium variety, quite productive, but during a wet season is apt to become too soft for a shipping berry.

**Parker Earle** (S)—A very productive berry if all conditions are favorable, otherwise it will prove a failure. It must have very rich soil and plenty of moisture to mature its crop; when conditions just suit, it is immense. Does not make many runners, but has a tendency to stool from the mother plant.

**Palmer's Early** (S)—Like the Bobolink, this is claimed to be an early berry, and it promises to be one, for it is a prolific early bloomer. But the frosts have destroyed most of the blooms for us. What fruit did set, were from medium to large in size, and firm. It is a good plant maker.

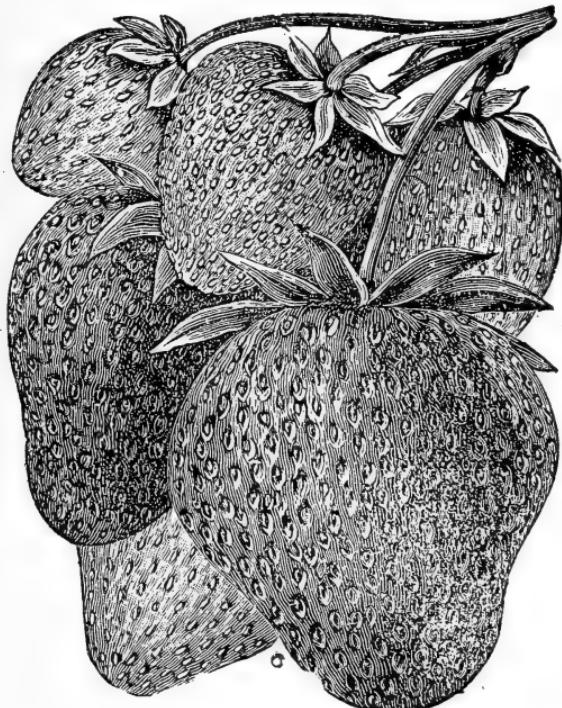
**Pocomoke** (S)—Very healthy plants, and productive. Fruit is of good size, regular in form, and firm. Mid-season.

**Phillip's Seedling** (S)—We are not very familiar with this variety, as it was in a location where it was drowned out for

us last season. It is a good plant maker of fair sized plants. We secured our start of this from a grower at Monett, Mo., on whose grounds it seemed to be a promising sort.

**Paris King (S)**—Makes very upright, slender foliage, and plenty of plants. Mid-season; some of the first berries are large in size, but they do not hold up well.

**Ridgeway (S)**—This variety succeeds well in nearly every part of the country. We use it extensively as a late pollener, it being extra potent in this respect. This was another of D. McNallie's favorite berries, and we quote in part from one of his descriptions: "It is very productive, it is not extremely large, but large enough to go as a fancy berry on any

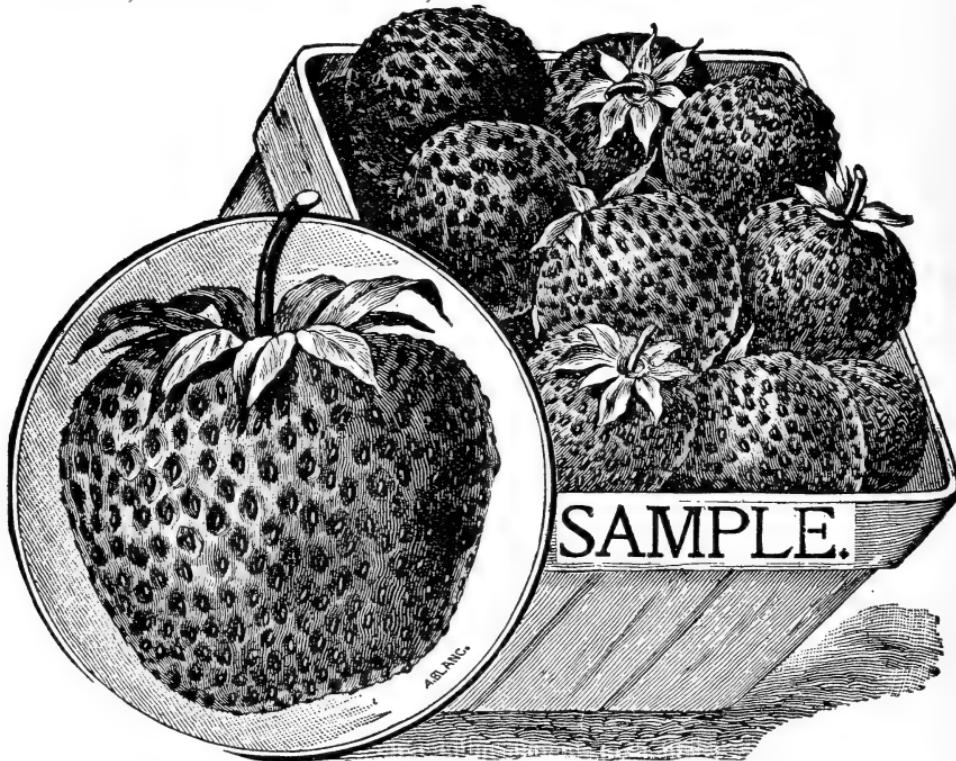


**Ridgeway.**

market. It is the most uniform in shape and size of any berry that I know, nearly all of each picking look like they had been molded in the same mold, painted and varnished by the hand of a careful and expert artist who was master of mixing colors to suit the taste of the most critical connoisseur. The calyx is large and the most perfect and beautiful tint of green to suit the coloring of the berry. It has a fine flavor. It ripens from mid-season to very late, while it gives

several pickings before Gandy and Aroma ripen, I have been picking it as late as either of them. It is too late for a single pollener for most pistillates, but where two different pollinizers, early and later, are used, this is a good one for late." It does not hold its own as well as some varieties do during an extremely wet picking season, but in a normal season, or when it is a little dry, it can hardly be beat for the quantity and quality of its fruit, and for their fine color and uniformity

in size. We believe much of this is due to the fact that the plants have such a fine root system, which penetrates deep down, and in all directions, in the soil.



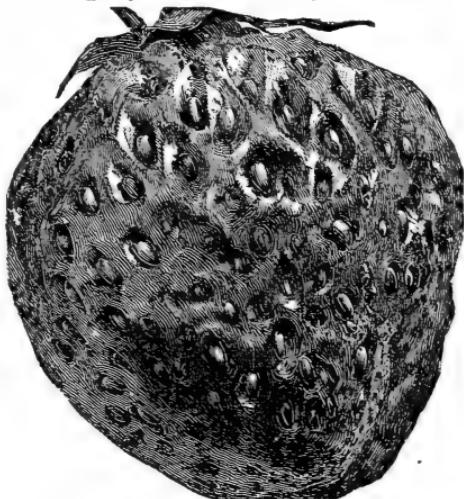
**Sample (P)**—A very productive berry, medium to late in ripening, in fact, it should be classed as late, as more of its berries ripen in that season. A good plant maker, of strong thrifty plants. Fruit above the medium in size, firm, nice color and holds up well for a long season. Since we have noticed this berry, it has gained in prominence each year. This berry will compare well with Aroma in the color and size of its fruit, is not quite as round, but has more of a conical shape.

**Shuster Gem (P)**—This is an early pistillate variety, ripening about the same time as Crescent. Its fruit will average larger than Crescent, although some of the first berries are irregular in shape. A good plant maker, very productive, and holds up better in size and lasts longer than Crescent. Some growers have found it a profitable berry to raise here.

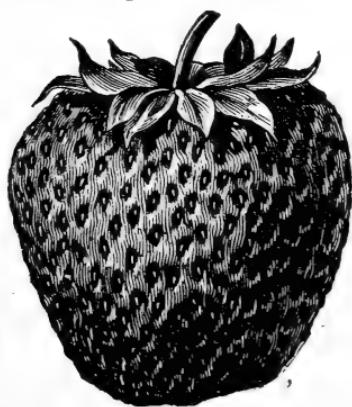
**Splendid (S)**—This name possibly may express too much, but nevertheless it is a good variety, a good plant maker of

nice healthy foliage, productive of from medium to large berries; a good pollener; mid-season.

**Senator Dunlap (S)**—A berry of somewhat recent introduction that is highly recommended by nearly every one who has fruited it, and especially is it highly spoken of by Northern growers. It is a staminate variety, and makes you think of the Warfield, in being an extra prolific plant maker, and in the productiveness, color and shape of its fruit. Since growing this variety we have never had enough plants left at fruiting time to give it a fair test; only one year, and then a fire started by a railway engine, burned the mulch about a month before the blooming season in this patch. That year the fruit was inferior in size, but we believe that it did not have a fair show, as other varieties in the same section that was burned over, did not come up to their standard. We are sorry that we are not able to give a reliable description of the fruit of this variety under favorable conditions; but we believe that every one who has not tried this variety, should do so. Plants should be set 12 to 18 inches farther apart in the rows than Haverland or Aroma, or runners kept cut off, to get best results in size of fruit, for it is about the best plant maker we have; mid-season.



Senator Dunlap.



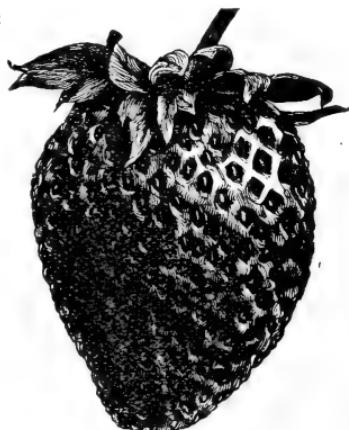
Texas.

**Texas (S)**—This is a new variety, introduced by the same man that originated the Excelsior. It resembles the Excelsior in foliage and growth, but is not as prolific in plants, nor does not rust. We have fruited it for four years, and like it better every season. It is nearly as early as the Excelsior, but does not ripen quite as fast; fully as large or larger, lasts a long

time for so early a berry, and produces more marketable fruit than any early berry we have grown. Many of the berries at the last picking are nearly as large as the first ones. It is almost round in form, and makes a good appearance when crated. Nearly all strawberry growers are looking for an early berry that will produce more than those now grown, and will hold up in size, and not become soft. From our observation, we believe you will get it in the Texas. For a large, well-rooted plant, it excels any early variety we raise.

**Tennessee Prolific (S)**—It is both prolific in plants and fruit, a very healthy, robust plant, a good pollenizer for mid-season pistillates. We deem it one among the best of our old varieties.

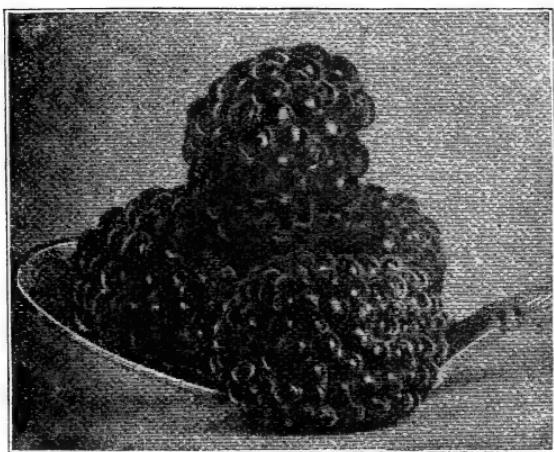
**Warfield (P)**—This was the leading berry in this section of the country for many years, and though not planted as extensively as it once was, quite a large acreage of the Warfield is planted each year yet. It is one of the best plant makers, and very productive. The first berries are large in size, but if the rows are too thick, or if it is not properly pollinated, the berries will soon get too small and knotty for a market berry. Some years on certain soils, under favorable conditions, it will produce as many crates to the acre



Warfield.

of marketable berries as any variety. It is deep red in color, firm, and especially desired as a canning berry. If it was kept properly thinned it would be more of a desirable variety, but as it is generally grown there are too many small berries to be profitable.

**Lucretia Dewberry**—This is the earliest and best of the black-



Lucretia Dewberry.

berry family. It is very productive, fruit is of large size, jet black in color, delicious in taste, and a good shipper. Very popular for table or canning. Set plants four feet apart in rows six to seven feet apart, and keep well cultivated the first season.

### SOME NEW VARIETIES.

Most of the following varieties are of recent introduction, and we have not fruited them. We can only give a description of their plant growth for this season, but we add the description of their fruit as given by the introducers. There is an old saying about the use of words, "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside." This might be applied in some degree to the varieties of strawberries and other fruits. Yet we believe we would modify it by saying that all growers, who make the raising of fruit their main business, should be among the first to try a few, at least, of the most promising new sorts, and carefully note the reports on the others. It is not by so-called "thoroughbred pedigreeing" that our improvement in the varieties of fruit will come; but by crossing and breeding, whereby a new variety may be secured that will have some of the desired characteristics of both parents with the less desirable features more or less eliminated.

**Arizona Everbearing (S)**—A good plant maker. Foliage rather small, light color, a little rust. "Ripens early, medium in size, dark red in color."

**Pride of Cumberland (S)**—A fair plant maker, with large, dark foliage. "Like Gandy this berry will carry from Florida to Boston. It is brilliant red in color, and holds its freshness and luster. The fruit is equal to Gandy in every respect, and is a week earlier."

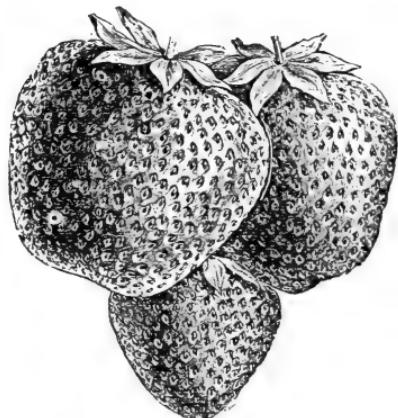
**Mrs. Mark Hanna (S)**—About the average in making plants of good size; dark colored foliage. Mid-season. Claimed to be the largest berry in existence.

**Beaver (S)**—A good plant maker of small dark colored foliage, that lays closer to the ground than any variety we have grown. "It yields a good crop of large, roundish conical berries, bright red, shining and beautiful."

**Missouri (S)**—This variety originated in the state from which it is named. It is claimed to be a good plant maker, but it did not make plants very freely for us last year. The

introducer describes it as productive, berries large, dark red and firm.

**Morning Star (S)**—An extra good plant maker. Foliage healthy, large and dark green. Originated in Virginia. “At last we have in the Morning Star what has so long been wanted; a very early variety producing in great abundance, very large and beautiful berries of the highest quality. Ten days earlier than any other variety, producing large berries; firm.”



Parson's Beauty.

**Parson's Beauty (S)**—An average plant maker of large, dark colored foliage. “An abundant bearer of large fruit, very uniform in size and shape, bright red, firm and very attractive. It holds out in size better than most varieties.”

**Nick Ohmer (S)**—Does not make many plants, but they are very strong and healthy. “Berry of very large size, never misshapen. Dark glossy red, firm and of excellent flavor.” Seems to give satisfaction wherever tried.

**New York (S)**—Not very prolific as a plant maker. Plants large, foliage very healthy. “A cross of Bubach and Jessie. Larger than either of its parents in size, and equal to the Bubach in productiveness. Mid-season.” A berry that is highly spoken of wherever tried.

**Early Hathaway (S)**—We believe this to be the same as Texas. The plant growth resembled that variety in all respects. And after noting the description of its fruit, we believe it stronger than ever.

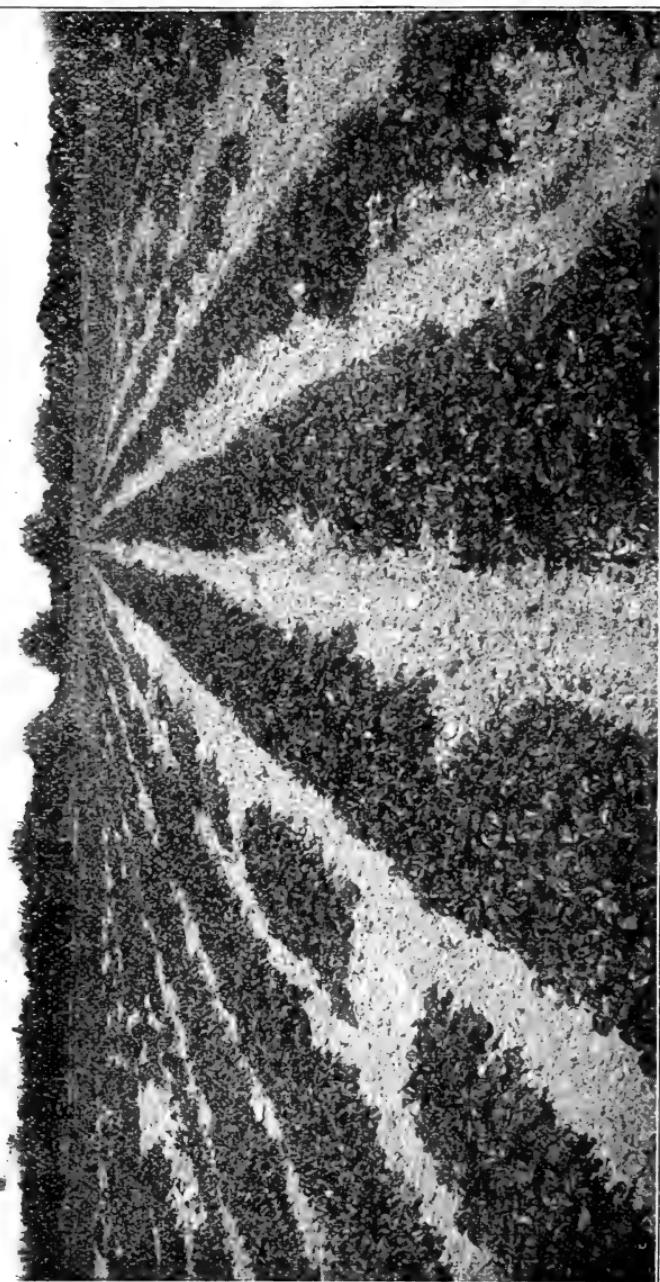
**Auto (S)**—A very moderate plant maker with us, but the plants are very large and robust. “Fruit extra large, of fine color, and high quality.”

**Louis Hubach (S)**—It was one of our best plant makers this season. A seedling of Warfield and Lady Thompson. “Will stand drouth the best of any. The berry is of large size, somewhat rough, very firm and immensely productive. It will yield three times as much as Lady Thompson on the same soil, and is four days later than Michel.”

**Cardinal (S)**—From experience we have learned that it is better to use caution in describing a new variety, and especially if we have never fruited that variety. But here is one that tempts us to lay caution aside, and say that it promises to be one among the very best varieties grown, new or old. We purchased a few plants last spring from the introducers, paying \$3.00 a dozen. They were delayed in transit and did not arrive in the best condition, and after being set out, had five weeks of drouth to contend with. Two out of every three plants died, but the remaining one-third (and they were set five feet apart), have made a row far better than we ever anticipated the whole number would, in fact, nearly every gap is filled, and we have almost a solid row. We believe we could give no stronger evidence of its qualities as a plant maker. In vigor of growth and healthfulness of foliage, it is not surpassed by any variety we are growing. And every plant of the numerous ones set, seems to be fully as good as the one just preceding it. Like the Downing's Bride and Gandy, it throws out a long runner before it forms the plant. This feature will prevent plants crowding so close together, as do most of the prolific plant makers.

This seedling was discovered in 1896, by Mr. George Streator of Ohio, who is a horticulturist of national renown, in a portion of his vegetable garden where strawberries had previously been grown; and has met the most sanguine expectations of its growers every season since. It has been tried in different sections of the country and flattering reports have been received from every place. It has been grown among forty varieties for comparison, and in luxuriant growth and productiveness it far excelled them all. Fruit, "roundish or roundish conical; medium to large, bright crimson, not fading; quite firm and solid; medium to late in season, closely following Bubach." We believe you will never regret ordering a dozen of the Cardinal to get a start from.

**Read Carefully**—In the descriptions of the different varieties, we have tried to give our honest opinion, after carefully noting their behavior on our own grounds, regardless of the opinions of any other persons. Our only desire has been not to mislead or disappoint any one. We have tried not to over-praise any variety, and also have been free to condemn, as you will find we have some that are not the "best." And we desire to call your attention to the fact, that the most essential thing in starting a strawberry bed is to get plants that are well grown and that are **True to Name**; and if you do not



Showing one of our Spring set plant beds, taken in September.

knew, you will soon learn, that it pays to buy, not the cheapest plants, but from a company which has a reputation to sustain, and whose prices are made as low as is consistent with the expense, labor and carefulness required to produce good plants true to name.

### PRICE LIST.

**Important**—Write your name, postoffice, county and state plainly, and be particular as to shipping directions.

Should you receive more than one of these catalogues, please hand the extra one to some person interested in fruit growing.

The varieties marked (P) are pistillates or imperfect bloomers, and must have a staminate, or perfect bloomer, every third or fourth row to pollenate them.

#### EXTRA EARLY

	12	100	1000
	Mail	Ex.	Ex.
	Paid	Paid	Paid
Bobolink (S) .....	\$0.25	\$0.40	\$2.00
Excelsior (S) .....	.25	.40	1.75
Heffman (S) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Johnson's Early (S)	.25	.40	1.75
Michel (S) .....	.25	.40	1.50
Palmer's Early (S)..	.25	.40	2.00
Texas (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50

#### EARLY

Crescent (P) .....	.25	.40	1.50
Clyde (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Lady Thompson (S)	.25	.40	2.00
Mee (P) .....	.25	.40	1.75
Shuster Gem (P)....	.25	.40	2.50
Ernie (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50

#### MEDIUM

Barton's Eclipse (P)	.25	.40	2.00
Benoy (S) .....	.25	.50	3.00
Bismarck (S) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Bubach (P) .....	.25	.50	3.00
Ben Davis (S).....	.25	.40	2.50
Dayton (S) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Downing's Bride (P)	.25	.40	2.50
Dornan (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Greenville (P) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Gardner (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Glen Mary (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Haverland (P) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Hero (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Jerry Rusk (S) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Klondyke (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Kansas (P) .....	.25	.40	1.75
Monitor (S) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Marie (P) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Parker Earle (S) ....	.25	.50	3.00

#### MEDIUM

	12	100	1000
	Mail	Ex.	not
	Paid	Paid	Paid
Pocomoke (S) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Paris King (S) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Phillip's Seedling (S)	.25	.40	1.75
Senator Dunlap (S) ..	.25	.40	2.00
Splendid (S) .....	.25	.49	2.00
Tenn. Prolific (S)...	.25	.40	2.00
Warfield (P) .....	.25	.40	1.75

#### LATE

Aroma (S) .....	.25	.40	2.50
Brandywine (S) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Enhance (S) .....	.25	.40	1.75
Gandy (S) .....	.25	.40	2.00
Lester Lovett (S)....	.25	.40	2.00
Mary (P) .....	.25	.50	3.00
Ridgeaway (S) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Sample (P) .....	.25	.40	2.25
Lucretia Dewberry .	.40	1.00	6.00

#### NEWER VARIETIES.

	12	100
	Mail	Ex.
	Paid	Paid
Auto (S) .....	\$0.25	\$0.60
Arizona (S) .....	.25	.60
Beaver (S) .....	.30	.75
Cardinal (S) .....	1.25	
Early Hathaway (S)	.25	.60
Louis Hubach (S) ..	.25	.60
Morning Star (S)....	.30	.75
Missouri (S) .....	.30	.75
Mrs. Mark Hanna (S)	.25	.60
Nick Ohmer (S) .....	.25	.60
New York (S) .....	.25	.60
Parson's Beauty (S).	.25	.60
Pride of Cumberland	.25	.60

Will allow 50 and 500 of a kind at 100 and 1000 rates.  
If by mail add 25 cents per hundred. Dozen rates postpaid.  
This list abrogates all former prices.

**Discount**—On all orders received before February 1st, with cash in full, a discount of 10 per cent; and on orders received before March 1st, with cash in full, a discount of 5 per cent will be allowed from catalogue prices. These discounts are only good until dates mentioned.

Send for estimate on 10,000 and upward. Give list wanted.

### ***How to Grow Large Crops of Strawberries***

(This treatise on How to Grow Large Crops of Strawberries, was prepared by D. McNallie two years ago, and with a few alterations, we present it here, thinking it might be of some interest and benefit to new beginners, at least.)

#### **Selection of Ground.**

Where conditions are such that you can have a choice in selecting the kind of land to suit best for a strawberry patch, select it nearly level just so it has a very gradual slope, sufficient to properly drain the water from it; if too flat, water will stand on the berries in a wet time, and if too sloping, hard rains will wash ditches between or across the rows. If steep hill sides have to be used, don't run rows up and down the hill lengthwise, but sideways with the hill; it is better for the water to cut ditches across the rows than between them, as it is impossible to cultivate satisfactory with rows standing on ridges.

#### **Kind of Soil.**

While any kind of soil that will produce any kind of a crop will produce strawberries, don't expect to get a very large crop of berries from very poor soil as it won't make it. Your yield will be in proportion to the fertility of your soil, other conditions being equal. Ground that will produce an average crop of thirty to forty bushels of corn to the acre in this section, is considered good berry land, and will produce on an average, 200 crates per acre without any fertilizing. Use the richest ground that you have and your crop will be in proportion, both in quantity and quality, like other crops. But if your neighbor has poorer land than you and cultivates and tends his berries better, and raises larger berries and more of them, don't say that poor land is best, but that labor is justly rewarded. If soil is poor, manure and work it in well before setting out your plants.

### Preparing Ground.

Ground should be broken as soon as the crop that you are going to follow with berries is harvested, and if stubble, either sown in peas, to be turned under to enrich the ground, or cultivated sufficient to keep any weeds from going to seed during summer and fall. During the winter, or at least, two or three weeks before time to set plants, as you catch ground in right condition, re-break very deep, but don't harrow until time to set plants. If you get a rain on the ground before time to prepare it for plants it will be a great help, as it is very hard to get dry, loose, broken ground in right condition without. When ready to set out plants, thoroughly pulverize the soil as deep as possible, the deeper and finer you get the soil the better it will retain moisture, and be more available for feeding plants. Use a roller or drag for packing your ground and making it smooth and level. I prefer a plank drag for last working as it fills up the horse tracks much better and leaves the ground far smoother and level. Don't work your ground at any time while wet. Take great pains in preparing the ground, for like all other work in a strawberry field, it can not be done too good for best results.

### Selecting Plants.

If you have grown your own plants, don't use anything but the very best, and only from new beds. If you are buying your plants from some one else, you should be careful about placing your order. Don't make the price the first consideration that is important. But, "Am I getting what I ordered?" is much more important. If you are located so that only early varieties pay, and you order Excelsior plants, and receive Gandy, you can readily realize the great loss you would sustain and you should guard as much as possible against this, and not buy plants from any one that will not guarantee their plants true to name, and not mixed, and also investigate and find out whether the person making the guarantee is responsible and honest enough to make their guarantee good. I realize that refunding the money or replacing the plants does not cover the great loss that is sustained, but it does cause a responsible plant dealer to be more careful to keep his fields pure. Be very careful about handling your plants, not to get them mixed; have every bunch labeled with name of variety, and leave label in bunch until ready to use

### Selecting Varieties.

This is a very important question and should have your most careful consideration. It is possible that on this one

question alone depends your success or failure in the strawberry business, and you should take time and deliberate carefully before deciding on your selection. If you were only putting out plants for one year's crop it would not matter so much, but here we generally fruit a field from three to five years, so that makes it more important. Now in making your selection don't have just one idea in mind, and that in regard to productiveness, that is important, but no more so than others. I believe size is the most essential point in selecting and should be the first consideration. Did you ever read an article written by a strawberry grower in a bragging frame of mind and telling about receiving 10 cents a quart more for his berries than any of his neighbors, claiming that it was on account of the productiveness of his berries? No, it was always on account of the size. Did you ever hear of a man sending strawberries to the market and getting a poor price because they were too large? Never! But I think you know of growers receiving very unsatisfactory returns on account of their berries being small. We all know these things to be facts. Why not profit by our knowledge? I think it advisable for every fruit grower to try some of the most promising new varieties in a small way, so that if they prove superior to our older ones we will know whether they will suit our condition of soil, climate, etc., and not wait until some of our more progressive neighbors force us to use them or quit the business.

**Quality**—I never pay any attention to the quality of a strawberry; in fact, I do not care what the quality is. This delicious flavor we hear so much about—"who does it suit?" If it suits me you might not want to eat it; our tastes are different, much more so than our eyes. If a berry is large, has a good shape and a beautiful color, the eye is pleased with it, and I think the eye has a great influence on the palate and it will be satisfied, if not, just the right quantity of sugar and cream will do the work. For illustration, take the Ben Davis apple. There has been ink enough thrown at it to make it as black as sin, just because it did not suit some one's taste, but it has gone on climbing until it has reached the top round and is shining brighter than ever. Talk about quality, "bah!" Who ever saw a large, beautiful, ripe strawberry that was not fit for the "gods?"

**One or More Varieties**—To save a great deal of correspondence I will state here that I can not advise parties at a

distance what variety or varieties will be the most profitable for them to grow. I do not know their condition, and it would be impossible for me to advise them intelligently, as the location and competition must govern this wholly. There are locations, no doubt, where the earliest, others where medium early, and others where the latest berries pay the best, owing to competition, but as a general thing, where you have a home market, or as we are situated here, I would advise protracting the season as long as possible for the reason some seasons the early and others the late berries bring the most money; while the medium hardly ever bring as high a price as one of the others it generally brings as high or higher than the other one, and the yield of the medium is so much larger that it frequently pays the best even at a lower price. As our conditions are here I would not advise any one to grow for market just one season berries; three chances are better than one, and my advice is take three.

### When to Set.

Set plants as early in the spring as ground will do to put in condition, and danger of freezing is over. Freezing does not hurt the plants if it is not hard enough to heave them out of the ground and expose the roots to the air. I would sooner take chances on a hard freeze early, while the ground is moist and cool, than risk a dry, windy, hot time later in the season. If a strawberry plant once gets well established and starts to grow and is well cultivated it can hardly be killed, except by a white grub eating it up. From middle to last of March is the best time in this latitude, while some seasons it will do even earlier. I believe I can sow strawberries broadcast and harrow them in in March, and get a better stand than the man will who sets after May 10th with the greatest of care. A great many people have the impression that one time is as good as another to set plants, judging from the orders I have received.

### How to Pollenize.

Where your pistillate varieties are prolific plant makers, and you allow them to set too thick in row, you should use staminates with the same tendency as much as possible. My observation leads me to believe that the principal cause of so many buttons and poorly developed berries is on account of not sufficient pollenization; and this is the effect of pistillates being allowed to make plants out of proportion to the power of the staminates that are used, to produce plants and blooms.

While it is safe to use a perfect flowering sort every fourth row with an imperfect bloomer, that is a poor plant maker like the Bubach—such plant makers as Warfield, Barton's, etc., should be fertilized every third row for best results. I would recommend using two pollenizers of different seasons for all pistillates. For instance, for a pitallate classed as medium you should use a stamine classed as early, and another as medium to late. By doing this, if from any cause the bloom of one is damaged, you have another chance for fertilizing. It is not always the early bloom that is damaged the worst by frosts or cold rains; it is the condition the bloom is in at the time of danger; when a bloom first opens out it points directly upwards, ready to be damaged in the most vital parts; later, it commences to turn down out of danger. As far as you can, select staminates that will correspond with the pistillates in size, shape, color, etc. If there is a close resemblance in these particulars it will be much more convenient in picking, as they will not have to be kept separate. I am willing to admit that this is hard to do with our present knowledge; but am in hopes that in the near future our stamine varieties will be equal, if not better, than our pistillates in all respects.

### Setting Plants.

There is no iron clad rule that can be laid down for setting plants, as there are a dozen different modes practiced, and each one believes his way the best. I have always used a line until this last season and thought it the best, but last season I concluded to use some fertilier, so I changed from line and used corn planter with fertilizer attachment to lay off my rows and sow my fertilier, and it worked to perfection. I like the planter better than the line; the wheels pack the ground and pulverize the clods, if any, and make it very nice to set the plants. One would naturally think that sowing a single row of fertilier where the plants were set would not be of much use to the new plants set a foot away, but we must bear in mind that the new plants get more or less of their food from the mother plant and apparently it works as well as though the fertilier was sown the full width of the row. I drop plants by guess, from two to three feet apart; poor plant makers two feet, and prolific ones three feet apart.

Some growers check off their ground both ways. Making the rows three feet and one-half to four feet wide, and cross marking from thirty to thirty-six inches; or the distance apart they desire to set their plants. In beds of three

or four acres and up this is a good method, as it enables you to have your rows straight enough to cultivate cross ways two or three times before runners start to set, and thereby saving the first hoeing.

In setting plants you cannot be too careful about the depth. They must be set deep enough so that no part of root is exposed to air or sun, and not so deep that the crown is covered with dirt. Don't allow plants dropped faster than dibblers can use them, and keep them protected by a wet cloth in a basket. Never expose plants to sun or air an instant more than necessary.

### Cultivating.

Cultivate as soon as possible after setting, the same day if convenient. Cultivate often. If you have ground that packs and runs together bad it may be necessary to cultivate two or three times a week, after a hard, beating rain, to get your ground in proper condition. Where ground is packed hard, as soon as dry enough, plow shallow the first time so as not to break ground up cloddy, follow immediately before it gets too dry, and cultivate as deep as possible, then shallow again to level down. You will need to cultivate twenty or thirty times, owing to kind of season, for best results. Cultivate from time you set out plants until killing frosts. Don't ridge your plants, they will naturally do that, but work the dirt away from row, and keep as level as possible. By doing this it will be much better for your first crop, and leave rows in better condition for renewing for second crop. After setting out plants culitivate as close to them as you can without disturbing the roots. Allow first runners to set until you have a row formed not to exceed eighteen to twenty-two inches in width, that is as wide as you can permit and have plenty of room between for picking. It is true that most of our scientists on strawberry culture advise us to keep runners cut off until about the first of August, to allow the mother plant to become well established before setting any runners. Now, the theory may be all right, but does not appear sensible to me. We are depending just as much on each of twenty or more runners that we get from the mother plant to make a crop of berries as from her. Then is it not better to let the first runners set and give the plants a chance to make a good growth, as well as the parent? No danger of a plant putting out runners until it is well established. When runners first form pull them around with cultivator until you have row filled between hill first. Always plow

the row same way each time. After filling in between the hills run the cultivator a little further from plants each plowing until you have a row of proper width, then attach rolling cutters to cultivator and keep runners cut off balance of the season. Don't wait too long between plowings while runners are forming fast, or you will get your row too thick. Try to get plants set in the rows from four to six inches apart; that is as close as they should be to produce fine berries. Keep blooms cut off the first year, if the plants are allowed to fruit it stops the growth and consumes much of the vitality. Everything possible is to be done with the cultivator, but you will have to do a great deal of hoeing also; your first hoeing between the hills wants to be good and deep to get the ground that has been packed well loosened up, but be careful not to disturb the plants. Keep your field perfectly clean of weeds the whole season, early as well as late. If you allow the weeds and grass to get the start of you at any time you may become discouraged. Never stop hoeing and cultivating because there are no weeds. If you have ground so poor that weeds will not grow there is the more need of work to change the particles of earth and get some fresh food where the plants can reach it, or they will starve. I believe that intensive cultivation without fertilizing is better than poor cultivating and plenty of fertilizing; both are much better than either alone.

### Mulching.

If you have only an acre or two of berries you can wait until the ground freezes hard, but if you have several acres would advise you to commence mulching as soon as frosts are hard enough to check the growth of plants and turn the foliage brown. Mulching is slow work if you have to haul the material quite a distance; it is better to commence early in winter. During cold, wet weather it is disagreeable work, and you cannot make much progress. Every berry grower ought to mulch sufficient to keep the berries clean. We commence here about the middle of November. Wheat straw is used principally—the objection to it being that the wheat and cheat left in the straw grows during the winter and sometimes causes considerable damage to berries during the fruiting time. Prairie hay is much more preferable, if one is situated so they can afford to use it. In this latitude I do not think it necessary to mulch for winter protection. The rank foliage of our matted rows seems to me to be sufficient to protect the plants from heaving. One ton of straw

or prairie hay carefully spread over the rows is sufficient to keep berries clean, but two or even three tons won't hurt, if raked off between the rows as soon as plants start to grow in the spring. And if it should be dry during picking the heavy mulching will be much the best, as it will keep the ground moist much longer.

### Picking.

If you have followed the instructions that I have given you in my weak way, and you are convinced that I do not know it all, nor that you did not know all about the business, but have been studying and learning all you can about the matter, and putting your knowledge into practice, it will be a grand success; it cannot be otherwise except by Providential hindrance. On the other hand, if you have been sitting around town for the last twelve months, whittling dry goods boxes and exchanging lies with your neighbor, who thinks it is better for strawberries if he sits in the shade than work them when it is dry and hot, and that a few drops of sweat from his brow would have hurt them worse than grass and weeds knee high, in the nature of things it is a failure. There could be volumes written on this one question of picking, but I will touch it lightly. Have everything ready before time to commence picking. Don't think of hauling your berries in a wagon without springs. Use no dirty packages to ship in. Have your crates and trays or carriers ready. Make those during the winter while you are resting. Don't allow more than four quarts to be taken out in tray, as it keeps berries exposed too long to the hot sun. Try to grade berries in the field, if they need grading. Every time you touch a berry you damage it. Fill quarts well when packing in crates. Pick every day that is fit after the season is fairly started; if you wait one day and it rains the next you may not get your field cleaned up well again during the season, and will always have more or less soft berries.

### The Pedigree Question.

We insert this article, not to continue a controversy, but because thousands of dollars and much time have been expended to convince the people that plants "selected for their desirable variations and restricted to prevent pollen and seed exhaustion," and so named "Pedigreed Thoroughbred Plants" are superior to those grown in the ordinary way.

This is an era of advancement, and we see no reason why as remarkable ability may not be displayed in originating new

varieties of fruit, in improving their culture, and methods of handling their products as has been made in inventing machinery and processes of manufacture.

We believe Americans are just on the threshold of important discoveries in the field of horticulture, and we are ready for original minds to point us the way; but after careful study and observation we honestly believe that this theory of "Pedigree Thoroughbred Plants" is a fallacy, pure and simple.

We concede that the theory when first considered by the mind appears plausible, and we acknowledge that when it first came to our notice we believed it was in the line of progress and worthy of trial. But after experiments, confirmed by numerous growers in all sections of the country, we saw our delusion, and found we had wandered after "false gods." We are now firmly convinced that if we had used plants propogated in this manner we would have done our fields irreparable injury.

Nature has her immutable laws for plants, as well as everything else, and when man propagates from a plant selected only for its desirable qualities and "restricts" its natural functions, without considering the other qualifications essential to its complete development, he has overbalanced the plant, and must pay the penalty in the results obtained.

For several years we have been close observers of the plants sent out by the company, who are the most prominent in advocating "Pedigree Thoroughbred Plants." Set side by side with plants propagated in the ordinary way (called by them scrub or mongrel plants), and given the same culture, seldom do they equal the "scrubs" in plant growth or yield of fruit; but more generally they are far outclassed by the so-called "scrubs" in these respects. And many of their purchasers complain that many of the plants are so inferior or weak in vitality that they have to throw them away, or they die after planting. We believe this conclusive evidence that "selection" and "restriction" is a wrong principle, and such methods of propagation are a detriment to the strawberry industry.

We believe that environments, such as soil, conditions and culture, have an influence on plants for better or for worse, but if any real improvement or change is made in the variety it must come from the seed, through the natural forces of crossing with other varieties or hybridizing with

widely different species, and not from propagating runners, for like begets like.

The achievements of Luther Burbank, the "Wizard of Horticulture," unquestionably proves the fallacy of the "pedigree" question as now advocated. One of his fundamental principles may be selection, but we have not yet seen where he restricts or restrains a variety's natural functions, and then expects it alone and unaided to produce something superior to the original, or for like to get something different from like. He selects for the variations desired, and then he "wobbles" the vascular system by crossing with another variety that has other desired characteristics. "Having crossed his species he plants the seed. From the resulting seedling he selects the single plant, or the two or three at most, which he finds best suited for his purpose. The seeds of these are again planted, and the work of the selection goes on. The seeds accumulate by a rapid progression. All are planted. He chooses few, but the number to be chosen from is large." He avers that "there is no evidence of any limit in the production of variation through artificial selection, especially if preceded by crossing."

Please note in particular that the desired change or improvement is accomplished only after repeatedly breeding seedlings, which are the results of crossing different varieties.

We expect to raise and propagate plants for several years to come. We believe we are ambitious enough, and at least not prejudiced enough to keep up with any advancement in our line; and if there was anything in this question we would accept it, for if we didn't have the ability to pedigree plants ourselves we probably could find some one who had. But as fruit growers to fruit growers we say that this theory of propagating pedigree plants from runners of restricted plants is a delusion, and it is presented in such ambiguous words and mystifying phrases that we warn the unwary not to be too easily taken in.

We believe the majority of people like fair treatment, and that the making of scurrilous remarks about growers who cannot accept these theories, and whose plants, grown in the ordinary way, are ridiculed as "scrubs" and "mongrels," will redound to the injury of those who practice it.

It is natural that when we buy anything we want the best, but it is a poor investment to buy something that is not as good as the best, yet advertised as the best, and pay for it a higher price than the best can be secured for.

We give the result of a contest, carried on several hundred miles from Missouri, of plants grown in the ordinary way and "Pedigree Thoroughbred Plants." The same number of plants were entered by six parties in different sections of the country. Two lots were failures to start with, the others were all set in the spring of 1904 in the same plot of ground, and given the same soil, same conditions, same culture. The contest was managed by a man who is in no way connected or interested in the sale of plants, but is an experienced fruit grower. We have every reason to believe that it was conducted in a fair and impartial manner, and the object was to learn the truth about this matter. Below is the yield from the plants of two contestants at fruiting time in 1905. We think the figures will speak louder than any words:

	From McNallie.	From Pedigree Co.
Haverland .....	189. bu. per acre	145 bu. per acre
Aroma .....	141.75 bu. per acre	98 bu. per acre
Bubach .....	182.25 bu. per acre	140 bu. per acre
Clyde .....	182.25 bu. per acre	81 bu. per acre
	<hr/> 695.25	<hr/> 464

A prominent nurseryman who visited the grounds where the contest was conducted, just after fruiting time, wrote as follows: The "Pedigrees" were "Togo-ized" and sent to the bottom of the list. In plant growth, yield and quality they are not in it. Have been outclassed by all the growers in the contest, except those that are mentioned as failed to grow.





#### A Four-Year-Old Bed Started from "Scrub" Plants.

The above cut is from a photograph taken in September, 1905, of a field of strawberries owned by Solomon Shaffer, whose farm corners on our home place, where most of our plants are grown. The plants for this bed were purchased from D. McNallie and set in the spring of 1902. The patch does not comprise quite three acres, there being 66 rows, 470 feet long. This bed has now been picked three years, and you can readily see the prospect it has for another season. The yield was as follows: For 1903, 874 crates (24 quarts each); 1904, 850 crates, and 1905, 896 crates.

Of course, due credit should be given Mr. Shaffer for the excellent care he has given the bed; each year every weed has been nipped immediately on its appearance. But if there is anything in well-grown plants to start with, we think they should be given credit also. The bed is about one-third each Warfield, Haverland (with pollinizers) and Aroma.

It is such proofs and tests, mentioned elsewhere in catalogue, that causes us to be convinced that we can guarantee our plants to be equal to the best, and better than some others that are grown.

